

**I Claim:**

1. A method to treat tissue in a selected wall region of an esophagus comprising the steps of introducing an elongate member into the esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one electrode operatively coupled to a source of radiofrequency energy and an inflatable body carried by the elongate member free of physical or electrical contact with the electrode;
- 10                   inflating the body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with the selected wall region, while keeping the body free of physical or electrical contact with electrode; and  
                      delivering radiofrequency energy to the electrode to treat tissue in the selected wall region.
- 15                   2. The method of claim 1  
                      wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.
- 20                   3. The method of claim 1  
                      wherein delivering radiofrequency energy source causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.
- 25                   4. The method of claim 3  
                      wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.
- 30                   5. The method of claim 1  
                      wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.
- 35                   6. The method of claim 5  
                      wherein delivering radiofrequency energy causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.
7. The method of claim 1

further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured temperature of tissue in the selected wall region.

5          8. The method of claim 1

      further comprising the step of modulating a power level of the radiofrequency energy delivered in response to a measured impedance of tissue in the selected wall region.

10         9. A method of thermally-mediated therapy to treat a dysfunction associated with laxity in a selected wall portion of an esophagus, the method comprising the steps of

15      introducing the elongate member into the esophagus, the elongate member comprising at least one electrode operatively coupled to a source of electrical energy and an inflatable body carried by the elongate member free of physical or electrical contact with the electrode;

20      inflating the body to stabilize the electrode in physical and electrical contact with the selected wall region, while keeping the body free of physical or electrical contact with electrode; and

25      delivering electrical energy to the electrode to stimulate an injury-healing process.

10. The method of claim 9

      wherein delivering electrical energy affects synthesis of nascent collagen in the injury-healing process.

30         11. The method of claim 9

      wherein delivering electrical energy affects shrinkage of native collagen.

12. The method of claim 9

      wherein delivering electrical energy causes heating of tissue in the selected wall region.

13. The method of claim 9  
wherein delivering electrical energy source  
causes the temperature of tissue in the selected wall  
region to be heated to a range of 45°C to 65°C.

5 14. The method of claim 13

wherein delivering electrical energy causes  
the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to  
be heated to a range of 50°C to 60°C.

10 15. The method of claim 8

wherein delivering electrical energy causes  
the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to  
be heated to a range of 60°C to 80°C.

15 16. The method of claim 15

wherein delivering electrical energy causes  
the temperature of tissue in the selected wall region to  
be heated to a range of 60°C to 70°C.

20 17. The method of claim 9

further comprising the step of modulating a  
power level of the electrical energy delivered in  
response to a measured temperature of tissue in the  
selected wall region.

25 18. The method of claim 9

further comprising the step of modulating a  
power level of the electrical energy delivered in  
response to a measured impedance of tissue in the  
selected wall region.